

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

(1) Please cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

(2) Please add new claims 11-30.

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (New): A conduit threading system for passing a pull-cord through a conduit by imposing suction at one end of the conduit, said conduit threading system comprising:

a pull-cord;

a shuttle having a zone of maximum diameter corresponding to the internal diameter of the conduit and adapted to be received within the conduit, said shuttle being removably attachable to an end of said pull-cord;

a positive displacement pump having a suction inlet;

a collection chamber attached to said suction inlet of said positive displacement pump; and

a suction pipe releasably attachable to said collection chamber and the conduit.

Claim 12 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said positive displacement pump is a manually operable pump having a vertically movable piston and cylinder assembly.

Claim 13 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 12, wherein said positive displacement pump further comprising two lateral extensions adapted for an operator to stand upon in order to operate said pump by way of a transverse handle carried at the operatively upper end of said piston rod.

Claim 14 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 12, wherein said positive displacement pump has a volumetric displacement of from 1 to 4 litres (about 2 to about 8 pints).

Claim 15 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said collection chamber further comprising a suction outlet and a suction inlet, said suction outlet of said collection chamber being releasably attachable to said suction inlet of said pump, said suction inlet of said collection chamber being removably attachable to said suction pipe, said suction inlet and suction outlet of said collection chamber both terminate at a position elevated from the bottom of said collection chamber.

Claim 16 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said suction outlet of said collection chamber further comprising a filter means for preventing debris becoming entrapped with air drawn into said pump.

Claim 17 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 11 further comprising a plurality of adapters releasably attachable to the free end of said suction pipe, each of said adapters having a different outer diameter.

Claim 18 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 17 further comprising a storage unit removably attachable to the upper section of said collection chamber, said storage unit being adapted to receive said adapters.

Claim 19 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said shuttle having a generally bell-shaped resiliently flexible diaphragm, and an axially extending attachment member, said diaphragm having a leading end and a trailing end, said trailing end of said attachment member having a maximum diameter corresponding to the internal diameter of the conduit, said attachment member having an eye located at its trailing end and a generally spherical guide element located at its leading end, said eye being removably attachable to said pull-cord through an attachment means.

Claim 20 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 19, wherein said attachment member further comprising a groove adapted to receive an edge of said leading end of said diaphragm, said groove being located adjacent said guide element.

Claim 21 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said pull-cord being stored in a roll form for unwinding by withdrawing said pull-cord generally axially from the center of the roll with said pull-cord having a weight of about one half to two grams per meter, and where said pull-cord is selected from the group consisting of a nylon string, a polypropylene string.

Claim 22 (New): A conduit threading system comprising:

a pull-cord;

an attachment means removably attachable to said pull-cord;

a shuttle having a generally bell-shaped resiliently flexible diaphragm, and an axially extending attachment member, said diaphragm having a leading end and a trailing end, said trailing end of said attachment member having a maximum diameter corresponding to the internal diameter of the conduit, said attachment member having an eye located at its trailing end and a generally spherical guide element located at its leading end, said eye being removably attachable to said attachment means;

a positive displacement pump having a suction inlet;

a collection chamber having a suction outlet and a suction inlet, said suction outlet of said collection chamber being attached to said suction inlet of said positive displacement pump, said suction inlet and suction outlet of said collection chamber both terminate at a position elevated from the bottom of said collection chamber;

a suction pipe releasably attachable to said suction inlet of said collection chamber; and

an adapter removably attachable to the free end of said suction pipe, the free end of said adapter being receivable in said conduit.

Claim 23 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 22, wherein said positive displacement pump is a manually operable pump having a vertically movable piston and cylinder assembly.

Claim 24 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 23, wherein said positive displacement pump further comprising two lateral extensions adapted for an operator to stand upon in order to operate said pump by way of a transverse handle carried at the operatively upper end of said piston rod.

Claim 25 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 22, wherein said suction outlet of said collection chamber further comprising a filter means for preventing debris becoming entrapped with air drawn into said pump.

Claim 26 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 22, wherein said attachment member further comprising a groove adapted to receive an edge of said leading end of said diaphragm, said groove being located adjacent said guide element.

Claim 27 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 22, wherein said pull-cord being stored in a roll form for unwinding by withdrawing said pull-cord generally axially from the center of the roll with said pull-cord having a weight of about one half to two grams per meter, and where said pull-cord is selected from the group consisting of a nylon or polypropylene string.

Claim 28 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 22 further comprising a storage unit removably attachable to the upper section of said collection chamber, said storage unit being adapted to receive said adapter.

Claim 29 (New): The conduit threading system as set forth in claim 22, wherein said adapter having a connection end and a spigot, said connection end being releasably attachable with a socket located at the free end of said suction pipe, said spigot being located opposite of said connection end and being tapered.

Claim 30 (New): A method of passing a pull-cord through a conduit, said method comprising the steps of:

a step of providing an apparatus, said apparatus comprising a pull-cord; a shuttle having a zone of maximum diameter corresponding to the internal diameter of the conduit and adapted to be received within the conduit, said shuttle being removably attachable to an end of said pull-cord; a positive displacement pump having a suction inlet; a collection chamber releasably attachable said suction inlet of said positive displacement pump; a suction pipe attached to said collection chamber; and an adapter removably attachable to the free end of said suction pipe;

introducing the free end of said adapter into the conduit;

attaching said shuttle to a free end of said pull-cord;

introducing said shuttle into the conduit opposite said adapter with the end opposite of said pull-cord attachment being introduced first;

attaching the free end of said suction pipe to said collection chamber;

attaching said suction inlet of said positive displacement pump to said collection chamber; and

operating said positive displacement pump until said shuttle reaches said adapter.